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Viewing cable 08BOGOTA3521, C) GOC SEEKS TO "NORMALIZE" RELATIONS WITH

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08BOGOTA3521**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08BOGOTA3521	2008-09-19 20:00	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.eluniverso.com/2011/04/11/1/1355/cable-170699.html>

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #3521/01 2632000
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 192000Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4849
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 8389
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 2186
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 1022
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ SEP 9670
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6570
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 2342
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 7250
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 003521

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/18/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [CO](#) [VE](#) [EC](#)

SUBJECT: (C) GOC SEEKS TO "NORMALIZE" RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA, WILL REMAINS PATIENT WITH ECUADOR, AND SEES BRAZILIAN ...

id: 170699
date: 9/19/2008 20:00
refid: 08BOGOTA3521
origin: Embassy Bogota
classification: CONFIDENTIAL
destination:
header:
VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #3521/01 2632000
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 192000Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4849
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 8389
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 2186
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 1022
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ SEP 9670
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6570
RUEHQP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 2342
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 7250
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

----- header ends -----

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 003521

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: (C) GOC SEEKS TO "NORMALIZE" RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA, WILL REMAINS PATIENT WITH ECUADOR, AND SEES BRAZILIAN INFLUENCE ON THE RISE

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor David M. Zimov
Reasons 1.4 (b and d)

SUMMARY

11. (C) Foreign Minister Bermudez announced that he would meet with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Maduro in mid-October to discuss trade and a full range of bilateral issues. Vice FM Reyes told us the GOC wants to use the meeting to "normalize" relations through existing bi-national forums to address security, commercial, immigration, and border demarcation issues. The GOC will remain patient with Ecuador and does not expect any improvement in relations with the GOE until after the September 28 referendum. Reyes said Brazilian influence was on the rise due to de-institutionalization underway in some Latin countries. Separately, President Uribe told the Ambassador that at the UNASUR conference on Bolivia in Chile, Argentine President Fernandez was a "stalking horse" for Chavez; Brazilian President Lula was moderate and helpful; and Chavez pitched for language permitting military intervention until Lula talked him down. End summary.

COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET

12. (U) Foreign Minister Jaime Bermudez said on September 16, that he will meet with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, likely on October 16 or 17. Bermudez, speaking from Santiago, Chile on the fringes of the Union of

South American Nations (UNASUR) conference on Bolivia, said the meeting would focus on a full range of issues. The foreign minister added that commerce ministers would also participate.

13. (C) Vice Foreign Minister Camilo Reyes told us separately that the GOC wants to "normalize" bilateral ties as much as possible given political and personal tensions between Presidents Alvaro Uribe and Hugo Chavez. The Bermudez-Maduro meeting would serve to follow up on pending issues from the July Uribe-Chavez meeting in Venezuela. The GOC's goal is to revive the various bi-national forums created to handle commercial, immigration, infrastructure, security, and water issues. These include COPIAF (border issues, integration, immigration, security, trade); CONEG (delimitation of borders in the gulf, river basin issues, and other boundary issues), and COBAN (a forum that covers infrastructure and energy). Chavez created the latter, Reyes noted, because the other bodies had been set up by Chavez' enemy, former-President Carlos Andres Perez.

GOC PATIENT WITH ECUADOR

14. (C) Reyes said the GOC would remain patient in its approach to Ecuador, believing there can be no lasting improvement in bilateral relations until after the September 28 constitutional referendum in Ecuador. Reyes told us the key was to avoid a further deterioration in relations, noting that while FM Bermudez met with his Ecuadorian counterpart at President Lugo's inauguration in Asuncion, President Rafael Correa renewed his verbal attack on Colombia. Correa has consistently used Colombia as a "political football" to advance his interests, even prior to his initial election, and the GOC expects this to continue. Reyes confided that OAS SYG Jose Miguel Insulza shared this view, and decided to hold off on further OAS efforts to promote better ties until after the 28th.

15. (C) Colombian Representative Guillermo Rivera, a member of the Carter Center group trying to improve Colombia-Ecuador relations, told us the group was set to meet with President Correa again in Quito in late October. Rivera said group members and Carter Center officials were surprised Correa had accepted the meeting. Correa stormed out of the last meeting on June 25, saying he would only meet with the group again "to talk about football, not restoring relations with Colombia." Rivera said several members of the group, including prominent leftist politicians Antonio Navarro Wolff (Narino governor) and Angelino Garzon (former Valle de

Cauca governor) were "puzzled" by Correa's behavior--and would brush up on football prior to the meeting.

GOC: BRAZILIAN INFLUENCE ON THE RISE

16. (C) Vice FM Reyes said the current process of de-institutionalization underway in some Latin countries has increased Brazil's importance and influence. Brazil possesses an "institutional solidity" that distinguishes it from many of its neighbors and allows for continuity of policy. Reyes said Brazil's UNASUR initiative would likely provide a useful forum where Colombia can interact with its more unstable neighbors (Venezuela and Ecuador) within a controlled environment. Reyes said the GOC would participate in talks on the South American Defense Council, but he said progress would be slow due to limits imposed by sovereignty and domestic legislation. He doubts the Council will ever be more than a talk shop--which would suit the GOC just fine.

URIBE ON UNASUR BOLIVIA CONFERENCE

17. (C) President Uribe told the Ambassador on September 16, that at the UNASUR meeting in Santiago on Bolivia, Argentine President Fernandez de Kirchner represented a bad influence and was a "stalking horse" for Chavez. He said Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula was moderate and helpful in producing a decent outcome. Finally, Uribe told the

Ambassador that Chavez had actually pitched for language
permitting military intervention until Lula managed to talk
him down.

NICHOLS

=====CABLE ENDS=====